

[Kleinfeld]

[?]

FOLKLORE

NEW YORK Forms to be Filled out for Each Interview

FORM A Circumstances of Interview

STATE New York

NAME OF WORKER Emanuel Verschleiser

ADDRESS 1419 Jesup Ave.

DATE Nov. 30th, 1938

SUBJECT JEWISH FOLK TALES AND "FOLK SAY"

1. Date and time of interview Nov. 27th,
2. Place of interview 1506 Boston Road, Bronx
3. Name and address of informant H. Kleinfeld and Mr. Lipkin
4. Name and address of person, if any, who put you in touch with informant.
5. Name and address of person, if any, accompanying you
6. Description of room, house, surroundings, etc.

Usual 5 room apartments, man dressmaker

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NEW YORK

FORM C Text of Interview (Unedited)

STATE New York

NAME OF WORKER Emanuel Verschleiser

ADDRESS 1419 Jesup Ave.

DATE Nov. 30th

SUBJECT JEWISH FOLK TALES AND "FOLK SAY"

A beggar once came to a little town on Sabbath eve. Before he went to the synagogue to pray he went to the rabbi. When he came to the rabbi he took out a small bag with money and asked the rabbi to keep it for his till the Sabbath is over. When the beggar went away the rabbi counted the money in order the man should not accuse him latter. He was very much surprise. The bag contained over 1000 rubles. After the sabbath the man came to the rabbi for his bag with money. The rabbi said: How is it? You are going to collect alms and you have a bag with over 1000 rubles. No my dear Jew. That isn't the way. You have to promise me that you will give up begging and open with the money a store or I will take away the money from you for the community. The beggar thinks and thinks, then he says: No take the money. Business is business.

A TALE ABOUT A MERCHANT AND THOUSAND RUBLES

A merchant went once for a walk. What does a Jew and a merchant think about especially when business is bad? He thinks how to help himself. If he would at least have one thousand dollars he could help himself, if not he is lost. He will be bankrupt. He is so

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engrossed in his thoughts that he is talking out loud: Ai, if I would only find one thousand rubles! I have to have a thousand rubles. Nine hundred even wouldn't help. Behind him walked a gentleman who heard what the 2 Jew said. He thinks to himself. I will try the Jew. He takes out of his pocket 900 rubies and throws them on the ground. The Jew sees the 900 rubles, he isn't lazy, he picks them up and hides them. The gentleman sees it, comes running: Listen - he says - didn't you say that you wouldn't pick up less than a thousand. I'll tell you, answers the Jew, I reminded myself that I have home a hundred rubles.

***** A STORY ABOUT A MARRIAGE MATCH

There was in town a young man, good looking, well educated and of a well to do family too. Naturally marriage brokers besieged him with propositions. But the young man was stubborn. He doesn't want and thats that. One marriage broker took him to task: But tell me please, what do you want? I don't want anything, the young man answered... Go away .. But the match-maker would not let himself be chased away so easily. He insisted: Tell me, you want money? The young man answered: No, You want noble family? No., you want a beauty? No. An educated one? No. But tell me, I have connections with all the world you can choose.

The young man became tired of the whole business he exclaimed: Go, be on your way. I dont want a match. I want love. The marriage broker said: So why don't you say so? I have this too.

FOLK-SAY, "GEFILTE FISH"

(LIPKIN)

(Heard from Mr. Lipkin retired butcher, sturdy, reddish face, gray, with large, veiny hands.)

. . . Yes, its six years since ny wife died. What we didn't do far her? Bat heart, you know. . . When the heart has no more strength to work .. Is there a professor we didn't see? Ai, she

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was a good woman. . . You live with somebody a whole life and if she is a good person its hard. . . But we keep the house like before for the children. I cook myself. What art is there? The children come 3 home, they like a meal like they are used to..Friday I cook a chicken and "gefilte fish" (stuffed fish) It smells, a delight..Why not, I beg you.. I put in a big fat chicken and a good marrow bone and a big piece of fat "flanken" (part of beef) and all kinds of soup greens.. The women come to learn from me. . . Women today know how to cook?.. My only worry the son the lawyer... He don't want to get married. . My wife before she died begged him: Son, let me have that "joy of spirit" before I die. . What does he lack so? he says. He is well up, thank God. . . And you think girls dont run after him? Maybe for that he dont marry.. Its not Europe. . . I have to tell you? The American girls, they have shame? A smart boy he is so why should he marry? I would like to see him married. I have a girl with me too, she is a bookeeper. She has a boy friend, a steady boy, a money maker. . . If God only sends health. . .